

Brad Stroup, Nashville, TN; John D. Risvold, Naperville, IL; Carol Warren, Davis, CA; Thomas McNeil, Lake Worth, FL; Vatsala Vadapalli, Stamford, CT; Jean Colgan, Fort Lauderdale, FL; Mary Delellis, Colorado Springs, CO; Gina Marie Di Dio, Boynton Beach, FL; Tonee Gardner, Columbus, OH; Chelsea, Brookings, SD.

Kimberly M Trew, Waterford, CT; Jessica McGinley, Bethlehem, PA; Adam Bettino, Torrance, CA; Kim VanCuren, Buffalo, NY; Natalie Rojas, Richmond, VA; Joseph P. Rio, Boca Raton, FL; Linda Rigsby, Gaithersburg, MD.

HONORING SPC. VANESSA GUILLÉN

HON. SYLVIA R. GARCIA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor my constituent, Specialist (Spc.) Vanessa Guillén—a daughter, a sister, and a beloved member of the Southeast Houston community. She was a beautiful, talented, and intelligent 20-year old Latina soldier who tragically went missing on April 22, 2020 after she was brutally murdered by another soldier at Fort Hood.

Spc. Vanessa Guillén was born on September 30, 1999 to her loving parents Rogelio and Gloria Guillén, and was one of six brothers and sisters. Her father Rogelio likes to recount the story of how Vanessa dreamed of joining the U.S. Army since she was 12 years old. She would often tell him, “Papá yo me quiero inscribir en el Army. I want to enlist in the Army.” She felt a deep sense of love for America and the Army represented an opportunity for a better life—her shot at achieving the American Dream. She worked really hard towards this goal and in 2018 she graduated in the top 15 percent of her class from César E. Chávez High School where she loved playing soccer. Shortly after her graduation, Vanessa fulfilled her dream to serve our country by enlisting in the Army where she was trained as a 91F, small arms/artillery repairer.

Unfortunately, her dream turned into a true nightmare. Before her murder and disappearance, Vanessa confided in her family that she felt unsafe at Fort Hood due to experiences with sexual harassment. She did not file a report out of fear of retaliation. The Army failed her and the Guillén family, and all those responsible for this failure must be held responsible.

Vanessa did not deserve to die the way she did, and her story has hit so many of us in our hearts, especially in the Latino community of Houston. We mourn with the Guillén family because Vanessa was one of us. So many of us have sisters, daughters, nieces, cousins, and friends who could have easily been Vanessa because so many Latinas have answered the call to serve our country.

Unfortunately, Vanessa's story is not unique. In response to this case, current and former Latina servicemembers have demonstrated incredible bravery in sharing their experiences with sexual harassment and assault in the military. Their stories reinforce the troubling reality that too often female servicemembers do not report their sexual trauma because they fear how their chain of command will respond. This is not only wrong,

but Vanessa's story has galvanized efforts across the country to put an end to a culture that perpetuates sexual assault and harassment in the military. We must seize this opportunity to ensure this never happens again to another soldier or their family.

Madam Speaker, the Guillén family, current and former female servicemembers, and everyone in the Houston region, myself included, ask that we make sure that what happened to Vanessa Guillén never happens again, so not one more family has to suffer like the Guilléns have.

We want justice for Vanessa Guillén. Nosotros queremos justicia para Vanessa Guillén.

TO RECOGNIZE EVA BENEDICT UPON RECEIVING THE NEW YORK STATE SENATE 2020 WOMEN OF DISTINCTION HONOR

HON. TOM REED

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. REED. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Eva Benedict upon her receiving the New York State Senate 2020 Women of Distinction Honor.

Eva Benedict has served the Wellsville community for almost forty years in healthcare, starting as a Critical Care Staff Nurse in 1981 at Jones Memorial Hospital. She held various positions in administration and management and was ultimately appointed as President and Chief Executive Officer in 2007.

In 2015, Eva was instrumental in the hospital's affiliation with the University of Rochester Medical Center. To this day, she serves both Jones Memorial and the University as a member of the affiliate leadership team.

In 2018, her leadership earned the 2018 Grassroots Champion Award from the American Hospital Association in partnership with the Healthcare Association of New York State. Throughout her years at the hospital, Eva has dedicated her time and energy to helping this rural hospital navigate through difficult areas, providing the best medical services possible and giving community members reliable, trusted care that they need.

During my time in office, I have appreciated building a trusted relationship with Eva and I have greatly valued her expertise in the healthcare field. My office has regularly called on her for honest, educated feedback, and we continue to rely on her for that today.

Given the above, I ask that this Legislative Body pause in its deliberations and join me to recognize Eva Benedict upon her receiving the New York State Senate 2020 Women of Distinction Honor.

HONORING NEIGHBORS IN NEED OF SERVICES (NINOS), INC.

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the Neighbors In Need of Services (NINOS), Inc. as the organization celebrates 30 years of service to the community.

Since its foundation in August 1990, NINOS Head Start and Early Head Start programs have ensured that low-income South Texas families have access to needed educational, medical, and nutritional support for children from birth to four years old. In addition to preparing children to begin pre-school, NINOS provides pre- and post-natal education to expectant mothers.

The NINOS mission statement is “Creating a brighter future for the children and la familia.” In the past 30 years NINOS has served approximately 50,000 children, an incredible accomplishment that no doubt has had a lasting impact for these children and their families. This organization and its dedicated staff help the next generation of Rio Grande Valley residents reach their potential by ensuring that every child, regardless of economic status, has access to the resources that will help them succeed in school and beyond.

I am proud of NINOS and the contributions they have made to the Rio Grande Valley for the past 30 years. I look forward to seeing how they continue to help our community grow stronger.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the U.S. House of Representatives to join me and the people of the 34th District of Texas in honoring an organization that is committed to the selfless and important work of educating our children and ensuring families have the help and support they need to thrive. NINOS serves as an outstanding example of how we all should serve our neighbors and community.

INTRODUCTION OF THE STEM EDUCATOR AWARDS EQUITY ACT

HON. GREGORIO KILI CAMACHO SABLAN

OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. SABLAN. Madam Speaker, today, I introduce the STEM Educator Awards Equity Act to ensure educators from the Northern Mariana Islands, Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa are represented in the annual Presidential Awards for Excellence in Math and Science Teaching.

Established by Congress in 1983, the Presidential Award is the highest recognition that an elementary or secondary school mathematics or science teacher may receive in the United States. Over 4,800 teachers have been recognized for their contributions in the classroom and to their profession.

Unlike the fifty States, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico and Department of Defense schools, each of which may recognize a STEM educator, no more than two awards in total can go to teachers from the four insular areas: the Northern Mariana Islands, the Virgin Islands, Guam, and American Samoa. This limitation has resulted in many years in which no teacher from one of those four areas is selected. No teacher from the Marianas, for instance, was selected this year. And this lack of recognition defeats the purpose of the program, which is to inspire excellence within each area and provide a role model for other

local STEM educators to emulate. These statutory limits, also, unfairly deny deserving educators in the insular areas the national recognition and professional development opportunities we provide to STEM educators elsewhere in our nation.

My bill provides a more equitable process by requiring awards to at least one teacher from each of the four areas. By ensuring teachers from all parts of America are represented, more students and schools will benefit from the expert-led training programs and collaboration opportunities available to awardees during their visit to our nation's capital.

The gentlewoman from American Samoa, Mrs. RADEWAGEN and the gentleman from Guam, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, are original cosponsors of the bill.

I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation.

MAJOR JAMES CAPERS, JR.

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor one of the greatest heroes our country has ever seen in combat—my constituent, and Lee County's very own, Major James Capers, Jr.

Many may not know who Major Capers Jr. is, but he became the first black Marine officer nominated for the Medal of Honor and ultimately received the Silver Star.

He is not only a hero in the Marine Corps, but also for his unwavering service in the Special Operations community, as well. Born in Bishopville, South Carolina, in the era of Jim Crow, Major Capers willingly enlisted in the military to serve a nation that did not have his interest at heart. That, in itself, is heroism.

Regardless, after finding a home in the Marine Corps, he became the first African American to get a battlefield commission in the Marine Corps Force Recon and was promoted from Staff Sergeant to Second Lieutenant, giving him control over the unit.

During the Vietnam War, Capers' team, who called themselves "Team Broadminded" conducted covert missions many of which nearly took his life to save his men. Soon after, Major Capers, a trailblazer for African Americans in the Marine Corps, became the face of their recruiting campaign called "Ask a Marine."

Capers lost his wife and son to cancer, both of whom are buried in Arlington National Cemetery, but he still regularly receives visits from his fellow soldiers and other young Marines.

However, he finally got the recognition he rightfully deserved. In 2010, Major James Capers Jr. was one of only 14 members inducted into the inaugural class of U.S. Special Operations Command's Commando Hall of Honor at a ceremony in front of USSOCOM headquarters at MacDill Air Force Base.

Between the Silver Star, the Bronze Star, the Purple Heart, and countless other medals, Major James Capers, Jr. exemplifies what it truly means to be a hero—it is not the medals, but someone who stands face to face with adversity and is willing to sacrifice his own life for those of his brothers in Christ.

It is my hope that every person of future generations can see and hear of his story, and be willing to do what he has done, and that is to be a hero. With that Madam Speaker, it is my honor and privilege to recognize Major James Capers, Jr.

SUPPORTING EARLY-CAREER RESEARCHERS ACT

HON. EDDIE BERNICE JOHNSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I am joined by my colleagues, Representatives LUCAS, BEYER, GARCIA, LIPINSKI, BONAMICI, TONKO, and COHEN, in introducing the Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act.

Our nation's research enterprise is reeling from the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 crisis. To slow the spread of the virus, universities across the country have been forced to cancel in-person classes and shut down campus operations. And today, six months into this crisis and with no relief in sight, universities are once again faced with impossible decisions about the upcoming academic year.

I want to thank universities for their commitment to doing their part to slow the spread of the virus and for their commitment to ensuring the safety of their students, faculty, and staff. In the absence of clear guidance or a national strategy from this Administration, universities have stepped up to donate personal protective equipment, reconfigure laboratory space and equipment for COVID-19 research, institute social distancing measures, transition to remote education, provide for testing and contact tracing, and accommodate the needs of international students.

These actions, while laudable, have come at a cost. The full extent of the financial loss incurred by universities during this crisis is unknowable at this point. Recent surveys of university presidents conducted by the American Council of Education reveal that short- and long-term financial viability are pressing concerns. And, in order to stave off catastrophe, many universities have instituted hiring freezes and cancelled new faculty hires.

I am deeply concerned about the disappearance of STEM job opportunities and the potential long-term consequences for our STEM pipeline. For established researchers, the COVID-19 crisis has severely limited their access to their laboratory space. But for early career researchers, these disruptions come at a critical juncture in their research career, threatening to derail their career path.

Even in normal times, postdoctoral research positions provide little job security, with most postdocs employed on two-year contracts. Now that the research job market has severely contracted, postdocs find themselves in a truly precarious position. Many of them may be forced to abandon their career path altogether in order to support themselves and their families.

The Supporting Early-Career Researchers Act establishes a \$250 million postdoctoral fellowship pilot program at the National Science

Foundation. This program would provide a much-needed bridge to help early career researchers weather this storm and prevent a permanent loss of STEM talent our nation can ill afford. I look forward to moving this bill quickly and working with my colleagues on the Appropriations committee to ensure it is funded.

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER WEEK

HON. JOE NEGUSE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, August 14, 2020

Mr. NEGUSE. Madam Speaker, our nation is fighting multiple crises at once: the risks of COVID-19 on our health and the health of our friends and neighbors, the dire economic impacts of communities halted to keep us each safe, and the surge of racial justice movements across the United States and the world. During these times of difficulty and change, I find myself turning to the institutions in our communities that have always worked to address each of these crises, individually and as a whole—Community Health Centers.

This week we honor the work of Community Health Centers during National Health Center Week. As we contemplate a path forward of safety, health, prosperity, and equity in our country, our conversations must begin and end with the CHCs that have been stalwart providers of accessible healthcare for every individual who needed it.

Each and every day, CHCs provide care for some of our nation's most vulnerable folks. In 2018 in Colorado, CHCs served over 200,000 children, nearly 32,000 individuals without homes, and over 9,500 veterans. Overall, they served nearly 650,000 patients in my state who might have otherwise been unable to access or afford health care.

CHCs provide irreplaceable healthcare services, but they are also economic drivers during this time of unprecedented financial hardship: For every \$1 in federal investments, CHCs generated \$5.85 in economic activity across Colorado. In total, health centers in Colorado deliver \$1.38 billion in economic activity, economic benefits the likes of which can be found in states across the U.S.

And as the COVID-19 pandemic continues, CHCs have risen to the challenge, innovating constantly to keep providing excellent care to their patients and communities.

I have no doubt that we can and we will overcome the struggles presented to us as Coloradans, and as Americans. To do this, it will take robust support for the tried and true systems of healthcare that efficiently, yet humbly serve our communities every day. That is why I'm so proud to recognize the work of Community Health Centers in my home state and across the United States this week and every week.

I thank the doctors, nurses, dentists, behavioral health specialists, and the countless other workers who ensure the success of CHCs and the health and wellbeing of our communities.